

B. Specification

Please amend the paragraph at page 43, line 19, to page 44, line 8, as follows:

--For obtaining a carboxylic acid by an oxidative cleavage of a carbon-carbon double bond with an oxidant, there are known, for example, a method of utilizing a permanganate salt (J. Chem. Soc., Perkin. Trans., 1, 806(1973)), a method of utilizing a bichromate salt (Org. Synth., 4, 698(1963)), a method of utilizing a periodate salt (J. Org. Chem., 46, 19(1981), a method of utilizing nitric acid (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. S59-190945), and a method of utilizing ozone (J. Am. Chem. Soc., 81, 4273(1959)). Also, Comptes Rendus de l' Academie des Sciences - Series IIC - Macromolecular Chemistry, 4, 289-293_(2001), discloses a method of reacting a terminal carbon-carbon double bond in a side chain of a polyhydroxyalkanoate produced by microorganisms with potassium permanganate as an oxidant under ~~an acidic condition~~ conditions to obtain a carboxylic acid. Similar methods can also be employed in the invention.--